

**Town Meeting Coordinating Committee**  
**Minutes for Wednesday, June 13, 2012, 10:30 am - Noon**  
**First Floor Meeting Room, Town Hall**

Present: Peggy Roberts, Mary Streeter, Nonny Burack, Patricia Holland, Alan Powell, Melissa Perot. Absent: Carol Gray.

Peggy called the meeting to order at 10:35 AM.

Peggy reminded all the newly-elected members they must be sworn in by the town clerk. All did so. Nonny moved we re-elect all the officers we elected at the previous meeting since at the time they were not sworn in and thus not legally members. Seconded by Pat. Voted unanimously. Peggy also announced that LWV's *They Represent You* may be distributed in the June 22<sup>nd</sup> *Amherst Bulletin*.

**Continued discussion of suggestions and concerns received from Town Meeting members:**

Several members had observed the Select Board meeting reviewing TM. Mary took notes and summarized their comments. There was a suggestion that the use of a Consent Calendar whereby the first few routine articles on the warrant are combined be considered again. That idea has been challenged in the past. One member of the SB thought that people answering questions should not have time limits. The SB discussed starting and ending times of TM sessions. In response, Pat agreed to bring in the information on the TMCC survey done last November on starting times for TM in which the vote was almost evenly split between those wanting 7 pm and those 7:30 pm. A member felt that the moderator's permission to allow follow-up questions was not evenly granted. Another noted that three people voted at TM who had not checked in, raising the possibility of voter fraud. On checking in, it was suggested that a reminder to check in be posted on the screen at TM.

**Issues to work on:**

We discussed the TMCC meeting coming up on June 25<sup>th</sup>, first with John Musante, then with Harrison Gregg to review TM.

On issues for John: determining TMCC's budget. An example is the megaphone needed for the bus trip, which could also be used by other town departments. Alan reported on the kinds available, recommending one with a microphone, around \$300. A second issue is the matter of how a TM member can get reimbursed for the costs of care for dependents. Peggy will ask John these questions before the meeting. A third issue raised was whether a Town Manager should vote in TM. Voting is legal under the town charter, but since he is not elected, is it wise?

On issues for Harrison, Mary suggested he might let speakers have extra time to present "without objection from Town Meeting." If someone objects that person can stand and say so. Melissa thought allowing 25 minutes for a member of the Zoning Board to speak was too long. Another issue was an increase in rudeness. Finally, we discussed how best to handle comments the committee received.

The meeting adjourned at 11:55 AM.

Submitted by Patricia Holland, Clerk

**Documents Distributed:**

Agenda

Minutes for June 6<sup>th</sup>